

## **ABSTRACT**

A method of generating masks for printing a pattern including a plurality of features having varying critical dimensions. The method includes the steps of: (1) obtaining data representing the pattern; (2) defining a plurality of distinct zones based on the critical dimensions of the plurality of features; (3) categorizing each of the features into one of the plurality of distinct zones; and (4) modifying the mask pattern for each feature categorized into a predefined distinct zone of the plurality of distinct zones.